

RIVER PIRATES.

Underground Labyrinths for Thieves and Robbers.

WHARF-RATS IN NEW YORK.

One of the Horrible Features of Life in the Metropolis—An Old Policeman's Experience.

There are no more desperate, dangerous and utterly irreclaimable criminals among the law-breakers of New York, or, indeed, any large city, than those variously known as "wharf-rats" and "river pirates." The distinction suggested by the employment of two names for their class is merely nominal; for though the "rat" is supposed to be simply a thief, and the "pirate" a wretch who will kill to rob, the fact is that the "rat" may always be expected, if murdered, to serve his ends, to perpetrate it without the slightest hesitation or compunction of conscience. Generally the "rats" are young, though among the hordes of them there are many gray-headed rascals who have never happened to win the distinction of becoming murderers.

The wharf-rat rarely, if ever, is produced from any other class than those that haunt the vicinity of the rivers. Dry-land thieves, either because they lack dexterity and all the cunning in water-craft, or because their criminal association confines them to other nefarious industries, seldom become wharf-rats. The ranks of the wharf-rats are constantly filled from among the nude youngsters who, in the sultry summer months, are seen on the ends of the piers, and about them in the water, shrilly yelling: "Hi, Patsy! Cheese! The cop's a-comin'!" The policeman is their bete noir. They fear and hate him by instinct. Diving under the water and hiding under the piers to escape him, they learn the existence of an infinite number of mysterious places of concealment, of which the wharf-rat, as a dry ground above, is quite ignorant. In those murky retreats they learn the acquaintance of older and more practiced rascals, who enlist them in their predatory enterprises.

There are waterways and sewers, practicable for boats, that penetrate very far under the city, the full extent and ramifications of which are known to none but the river pirates who nest there. The harbor police have a general idea of some of these places, or, at least, know where their entrances are, but do not venture to explore them. It would, indeed, be almost certain death for them to do so, for the pirates are numerous, desperate and always on their guard against surprise.

A veteran policeman upon being asked what he knew about these retreats, said in reply: "I suppose I know as much as anybody except the pirates who haunt them, but my knowledge is not much. I've been a good many years on the harbor squad, and have learned that the surest as well as the safest way to get one of those scoundrels when he is wanted is to lay for him to come out and grab him on the street, instead of visiting his haunts uninvited. I never tried to hunt a pirate in his lair but once. That was in '67, and though I'm as willing to stand up to the rack of any man as most other men, I'm free to say it will be at least sixty-seven years before I volunteer for such a job again. Not far from the foot of Thirtieth street, on the North river, an opening under a pier—that nine people out of ten would pass by unnoticed—gives access to a perfect labyrinth of a terranean waterway and sewers, a branch of which is as large as a half of the distance of a mile often a half from the entrance. At least two thieves' dens above ground communicate directly with it. The keepers of both of them are known to be 'fence,' but it is almost impossible to catch them 'dead to rights,' because of the facilities they enjoy for shifting away by means of boats in the continual midnight of that underground labyrinth.

I tell you these scoundrels have down there a sort of cave, some of them connecting with above ground, where they drink, gamble, and divide their plunder, and quarrel and kill each other without any but themselves knowing anything about it. It's a blessed thing that the dampness and the sewer gases give them rheumatism and other ailments that shorten their lives, and sometimes drives them up to the streets, where we can get hold of them.

"There is hardly an imaginable degradation upon property or a danger to human life in the vicinity of the water fronts or on board vessels lying in the East or North rivers—a danger from personal violence—a danger from the mean—that these river pirates are not ready to inflict and have not indeed been guilty of innumerable times. Many of the corpses dragged from the water—and there's at least one 'float' a day the year round—have been done to death by these wretches for the sake of a petty robbery. Watchmen on docks and vessels are often sand-choked, shot and stabbed by them; either to clear the way for plunder or to effect escape when caught in the perpetration of their nefarious business."

Deck-loads on vessels tied up at the New York and Brooklyn wharves, or valuable property on the wharves, or on vessels floating in mid-stream, are that the river pirates go for most. They steal alongside in their swift, low-lying, black or slate-colored boats, that seldom are seen out of the deepest shadows along the margins of the streams, and are propelled by muffled oars. Their field of plunder has been selected in the day-time, the modes of approach carefully marked, the numbers and habits of any guardians likely to be encountered have been learned. The pirates, who are well-armed always, and bold rascals, mount to the vessel's deck or the wharf, with the agility of cats, work with the noiselessness of shadows and almost magical celerity, and if discovered fight like the desperadoes that they are, not only to effect their escape, but to carry off their booty as well. If one is shot, his companions—for two or three of them generally work together—get him into their boat, and together he and they vanish under some wharf, and are as completely lost to pursuit as if the earth had opened and swallowed them up.

The river pirates are very cunning, and some of the stories told of their

common exploits almost challenge the belief of those who do not know them well. They have been known to put up a job to get the watchman on a hermaphrodite brig blind drunk, and while he was laid out stiff have taken away all the running rigging and sails of the vessel. A very common trick of theirs is, when they find barrels of liquor on a wharf that they can get under with a boat, to tap the liquor by boring up into the barrels with long augers and fill up other barrels in their boat below with the descending stream.

WOMAN.

Reflections by a Sympathetic Lover of the Sex.

SALT LAKE CITY, November 14, '84.

Editors Herald:

In thinking over the political situation of our Territory, there are some points to be seen, but not generally spoken of by individuals or the press. The one I shall treat on is: "Female suffrage." I am fully aware that a certain class of men, especially as to the laws of health, if women are equal with men at the polls in directing the affairs of local or general government, they should be treated as equals in sharing the benefit derived therefrom. Socially as well as politically, custom says woman must remain at home, but common sense says that women, especially mothers, need rest and recreation as well as men. Women have set hours for labor, light or heavy, while men go from early morn till late at night. As men, we are led to believe that they are only doing their part of the contract. Let every man look at his home; if he is not satisfied, let him look at his neighbor's, and see the tired and overworked faces of mothers especially, and see if there is not something lacking for their benefit, viz.: rest. To scan them closely, when they think no one is looking, physical exhaustion is made manifest in every look and move. Through force of habit it is kept on the move until nature yields. In thinking it over, I wonder if our mothers, wives and sisters are not inferior to our buggy horses. When their work is done the best of care is given them. Our work horses must have their meals regularly, and in proper quantities to do their work. How about the over-worked housewife? When men get tired and ailing, no one is more anxious to aid in getting ready the needed for his comfort while out recreating than the over-worked housewife. Poor man! he needs rest. How about the one left behind? Now, the question arises, if men were as careful of their wives as they are of their brute possessions, what effect would it have on their posterity? If men would, when they take their out for rest, make equal concessions to their families, it would be conducive to lead in happiness, daily, morally and physically. But the theory is, if a horse or cow is ailing, advise at once; but if the wife should accidentally allow a sigh or a groan to escape, "Oh, she will be all right in the morning." 'Twas ever thus.

A Corn Doctor's Experience.

In conversing with an old-time conductor, not long ago, he spoke up with: "Say, did you ever get so angry you ground your teeth and at the same time laughed a laugh resembling the notes of a cornstalk riddle?" "No," was the reply. "Well, I did once. On starting my train out of the Salt Lake station, a cab came flying into the station, horses under the whip, with a man, head and shoulders out of the door, swinging his arms and hollering. Supposing some passengers wished to get on, I pulled the bell and stopped. Out jumped the man and ran to the side of the car, nearly pulled a lady out of the window, giving her a kiss, with a wave of the hand, shouted, 'All right, go ahead!' In dumb astonishment I did as he bid me. To speak truthfully, my limited education would not admit of a reply."

THE "Exposition Universelle de l'Art Culinaire" awarded the highest honors to ANGOSTURA BITTERS as the most efficacious stimulant to excite the appetite and to keep the digestive organs in good order. Ask for the genuine article, manufactured only by Dr. J. G. B. Seibert & Sons, and beware of imitations.

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REV. E. M. ENGLISH, M. A., Principal, Hellmuth Ladies' College, London, Ont., Canada.

Next term opens September 15th, 1884.

NOTICE

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE

REAL ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT IN

obedience of an order of the Probate

Court of the County of Salt Lake, Territory

of Utah, made on the 9th day of August,

A. D. 1884, in the matter of the estate of

R. JOHNSON, deceased, the undersigned,

administrator of the said estate, will sell at

public auction to the highest bidder, for

cash, in currency of the United States of

America, and subject to confirmation by said

Probate Court, on Tuesday, the eighteenth

day of November, A. D. 1884, at 12 o'clock m.,

at the south front door of the County Court

house of Salt Lake County, situate in the City

of Salt Lake, said county, in Utah Territory,

all the right, title, interest and estate of the

said James B. Johnson, at the time of his

death, and all the right, title and interest

that the said estate has, by operation of law

or otherwise, acquired other than or in addition

to that of the said James B. Johnson, at the

time of his death, in and to all those

certain lots, pieces or parcels of land situate,

lying and being in the said City and County

of Salt Lake, Territory of Utah, and bounded

and described as follows, to wit: A part of

lot six (6), in block forty-nine (49), of plat

"B" of Salt Lake City survey, bounded as

follows: Commencing at the northeast corner

of said lot, thence west sixty-five (65) feet,

thence south twenty (20) rods, thence east

sixty-five (65) feet, thence north twenty

(20) rods to said place of commencement,

and also a part of lot eight (8), in block forty-

seven (47), of plat "B" of Salt Lake City survey,

bounded as follows: Commencing at the southeast

corner of said lot eight (8), thence north three

and one-half (3 1/2) rods, thence west ten (10) rods,

thence south three and one-half (3 1/2) rods, thence east ten (10) rods

to said place of commencement. Terms and

conditions of sale: Cash, currency of the United

States, to be paid on confirmation of sale by said Probate Court.

HARRY T. DUKE,

Administrator of the estate of James B. Johnson, deceased.

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550. A neat, new rustic house of two rooms and 25x10 rods of ground, on Tenth East.

550. New two room brick house, hard finished and built in first class style, 25x10 rods of ground, close to Brigham street, good garden, Eleventh Ward.

550. A two room adobe house and nice garden under cultivation and 25x10 rods of ground, on Tenth East, near Hopper street.

750. Two room frame house, with two porches and in good order, lot 25x10 rods, very cheap, Nineteenth Ward.

3,000. A new brick house of nine rooms, very close to the business center, with 25x10 rods of ground and the right of carriage road; house cost \$2,500 to erect; good bargain.

10,000 for a fine new residence of ten rooms, bathroom, closets, hot and cold water, gas, etc., high ceilings, all modern improvements and lot 50x100 rods of ground, an adobe house of three rooms on the 2nd lot, on West Temple street, Seventh Ward.

2,000. A new two story adobe house of six rooms and lot 25x10 rods of ground on Third East, Eighth Ward—a bargain.

2,000. A good five room adobe house, barn, etc., and 25x10 rods of ground, two blocks from Main street, in Sevelville Ward.

1,500. A five room rustic house, buttery, etc., with plenty of fruit trees and 25x10 rods of ground, cheap, on Seventh East street.

2,500. A new six room brick house, large cellar, good orchard, lot 25x10 rods, in the Ninth Ward.

700. A new two room rustic house, adobe lined, summer kitchen, well, lot 25x10 rods, Eleventh Ward.

800. A good stone house of four rooms, and 25x10 rods of ground, on First South street.

2,000. A nice four room brick house and 25x10 rods of ground, all well improved, on First South street, Eleventh Ward.

800. A two room rustic house and 25x10 rods of ground, in the Eleventh Ward.

800. A new rustic and brick house, three rooms, cellar and stable, lot 25x10 rods, Twenty first Ward, a very cheap place.

3,500. A two story adobe house of seven rooms, good cellar, summer kitchen, pantry, closets, etc., 25x10 rods and right of carriage road; two blocks from City Hall, Eleventh Ward.

1,500. A fine 5x5 corner lot and four room adobe house, on Third South street, Twelfth Ward.

1,350. A new three room adobe and frame house, a good barn, 10x12 store, etc., and 25x10 rods of ground, in the Second Ward.

2,200. A nice 11 ce on State Road, new brick house of four rooms and out house, very convenient, lot 25x10 rods, a bargain; and 25x10 rods of ground on Brigham street.

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